

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 33989 171008Z
ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /082 W
----- 041650 /11

R 170846Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7303
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
/CINCPAC HONOLULU
JCRC BARBERS PT HAWAII

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 33989

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CASC, VN
SUBJ: AMERICANS IN VIET-NAM: INTERVIEW WITH ICRC OFFICIAL

1. EMBOFF MET WITH ICRC HANOI REPRESENTATIVE MICHEL BAUMGARTNER
DEC 16 PRIOR TO HIS RETURN TO POST AFTER TDY IN LEBANON. WE
REVIEWED CATEGORIES OF AMERICANS IN VIET-NAM, AND
BAUMGARTNER PROMISED TO PRESENT ANEW SOME OF THE CASES TO
SRV AUTHORITIES TO "TEST THE WATER". HE SUGGESTED THAT, AT THE
SAME TIME ICRC AND OTHERS ARE MAKING SUCH EFFORTS IN HANOI AND
SAIGON, THE USG MAKE SIMILAR APPROACHES WITHIN CONTEXT OF ANY
NEGOTIATIONS WE MAY UNDERTAKE WITH THE VIETNAMESE. HE REMARKED,
HOWEVER, THAT IMPORTANT FACTOR IN DETERMINING WHETHER A
PARTICULAR VIETNAMESE WOULD BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE WOULD BE
DEGREE TO WHICH THAT PERSON PURSUED HIS CASE VIGOROUSLY WITH
LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

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2. ON QUESTION OF MIA'S, BAUMGARTNER NOTED HOW POLITICALLY
DELICATE ISSUE LIKE THIS IS FOR AN "APOLITICAL" ORGANIZATION
SUCH AS HIS, THUS LIMITING HIS INVOLVEMENT. HE VOLUNTEERED,
HOWEVER, THAT IT IS BELIEVED IN HANOI THAT SRV HAS MORE
INFORMATION THAN IT HAS PROVIDED TO DATE, BUT NO ONE REALLY KNOWS
TO WHAT EXTENT THAT GOVERNMENT HAS MADE A REAL EFFORT TO COLLECT

INFORMATION ON MIA'S.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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